IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pair of variable-powered binoculars, comprising:

a pair of objective lens systems;

a pair of prism systems, each of the prism ~~system~~ systems inverting an image that advances through ~~the~~ a corresponding objective lens ~~systems~~ system, from an inverted image to an erecting image;

a pair of concave adjusting lenses, each of the concave adjusting lenses placed between a focus formed by the corresponding objective lens system and the corresponding prism system, so that each of the concave adjusting lenses is movable along the optical axis formed by the corresponding objective lens system and the corresponding prism system; and

a pair of ocular lens systems, each of the ocular lens systems placed on the optical axis and defining an apparent image forming plane, so that each ocular lens system is movable along the optical axis closer to or away from the corresponding concave adjusting lens, synchronizing with a movement of the corresponding concave adjusting lens,

wherein a respective one of the apparent image forming planes is fixed in a stationary state relative to the respective ocular lens system yet movable relative to a respective one of the concave adjusting lenses as each corresponding ocular lens system and each corresponding concave adjusting lens move closer to or away from each other.

2. (ORIGINAL) The variable-powered binoculars as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said ocular lens systems is movable on the optical axis so that the focus of each ocular lens system can be adjusted to a focus of the corresponding objective lens system that has been changed by the movement of the corresponding concave adjusting lens.

3. (ORIGINAL) The variable-powered binoculars as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the ocular lens systems comprises combined lenses.

4. (ORIGINAL) The variable-powered binoculars as claimed in claim 2, wherein each of the ocular lens systems comprises combined lenses.

5. (NEW) A variable-powered lens system, comprising:

an objective lens;

ocular lens assembly aligned along an optical axis with the objective lens;

a concave adjusting lens disposed in alignment with the optical axis and between the objective lens and the ocular lens assembly; and

a movement mechanism operably connected to the ocular lens assembly and the concave adjusting lens for moving the lens assembly and the concave adjusting lens simultaneously either towards or away from one another along the optical axis,

wherein the ocular lens assembly includes at least two ocular lens elements disposed in a stationary state relative to one another along the optical axis to define an apparent image forming plane extending perpendicularly through the optical axis and through the ocular lens assembly such that, when the movement mechanism is activated, the apparent image forming plane moves relative to the concave adjusting lens yet remains stationary relative to the ocular lens assembly.

6. (NEW) The variable-powered lens system according to claim 5, wherein the at least two ocular lens elements contact each other at least at the optical axis.